

**Introduced by Senator Huff**

April 14, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 42—Relative to Voter Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 42, as introduced, Huff. Voter Awareness Week.

This measure would proclaim the week of October 18 through October 24, 2015, as Voter Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The opportunity for all eligible people to register  
2 and to vote is essential to an effective democracy; and  
3 WHEREAS, California's voter turnout among young adults is  
4 low compared to that of other states; it was only 41.6 percent in  
5 the 2012 presidential election; and  
6 WHEREAS, Californians under the age of 25 increased their  
7 registration rates by 8 percent in 2012; and  
8 WHEREAS, Young adults who are provided with practical  
9 information about voting feel more prepared to participate and  
10 become active, engaged citizens who will benefit California's  
11 political growth in the future; and  
12 WHEREAS, While most youth voter outreach efforts target  
13 college students, there is a tremendous gap in registration and  
14 turnout rates between young adults with college experience and  
15 those without; and  
16 WHEREAS, Young adults are the best resource available to  
17 encourage other young adults to register and to vote; and

1 WHEREAS, Vote America Now, the sponsor, promotes the  
2 involvement of young adults in civic education opportunities,  
3 activities, and discussions that can increase the likelihood that  
4 others in their households will vote; and

5 WHEREAS, Involving young adults in civic education  
6 opportunities, activities, and discussion can increase the likelihood  
7 that others in their households will vote; and

8 WHEREAS, People who begin voting at a younger age are more  
9 likely to vote consistently later in life; and

10 WHEREAS, As young adults comprise a larger portion of the  
11 voting population than the baby boomers, it is necessary to  
12 encourage the youth of our state to participate in the democratic  
13 system in order to train and prepare the next generation of political  
14 and civic leaders; and

15 WHEREAS, California has the opportunity to boost registration  
16 rates among young adults through the use of its online voter  
17 registration application, launched in 2012, which young adults  
18 prefer to the traditional voter registration application; and

19 WHEREAS, A primary purpose of California's schools is to  
20 prepare students to become active citizens; and

21 WHEREAS, There is an ongoing need to increase youth civic  
22 participation; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
24 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the  
25 week of October 18 through 24, 2015, as Voter Awareness Week;  
26 and be it further

27 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all of California's  
28 public schools to participate in Voter Awareness Week activities;  
29 and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
31 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.